(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

MSP for Copra

1045. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the MSP for Copra has been fixed at Rs. 3300 and Rs. 3555 per quintal, for milling and ball Copra, respectively;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken note of the low productivity-rate and the high cost of cultivation, before fixing the MSP;

(c) whether Government have received any requests from the State Governments for raising the MSP; and

(d) if so, the details of the request received and the action taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Based on the recommendation of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), views of the State Government and concerned Central Ministries, as well as other relevant factors, the Government has fixed the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Milling and ball Copra of Fair Average Quality (FAQ) at Rs. 3300 and Rs. 3550 per quintal respectively for 2002 season. While recommending the MSP for Copra, the CACP has taken into consideration, *inter alia,* the low productivity and cost of cultivation of Copra.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Government has received a request from the Government of Kerala suggesting that the MSP of milling Copra be fixed at Rs. 4600 per quintal and that of ball Copra at Rs. 4800 per quintal for 2002 season. The request has been considered by the CACP while making price recommendation for 2002 season.

Cultivation on rain-fed land

†1046. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN': Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cultivation on most of the rain-fed land proves to be unremunerative;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether Government have made any assessment regarding the financial gains accruing from cultivation on such land; and

†Orignal notice of the question received in Hindi.